



Bravo Battery, 1-40th Field Artillery



Frequently Asked Questions

1. WHO DO I CONTACT IN AN EMERGENCY?

Should an emergency arise, the best means of notifying your Soldier is through your local American Red Cross. Call 1-800-REDCROSS (1-800-733-2767) or www.redcross.org. Once contacted, your local area field office will contact the Lawton-Fort Sill, OK field office, who will in turn, contact us. In emergencies affecting immediate family members (sibling or parent), emergency leave may be granted. Other leaves of absence during training are taken into consideration on a case-by-case basis, but are not normally authorized.

2. WHAT HAPPENS IF MY SOLDIER IS INJURED DURING TRAINING?

Safety is the number one priority in everything we do in the United States Army. We put a great deal of time, training, and resources into accident prevention, but unfortunately, accidents and injuries do happen. If your Soldier is injured and/or hospitalized, he will receive expedient and appropriate medical attention by trained professionals. All of our Drill Sergeants have undergone extensive training to earn the designation of an Army Combat Lifesaver. As a precaution, we have medical aid kits/bags and other First Aid devices immediately available during all training events. All emergencies are handled at the Reynolds Army Community Hospital (RACH) here on Fort Sill. Depending on the nature, extent, and recovery time, some injuries may result in delayed graduation.

Please do not assume that your Soldier will not graduate on time if he is hospitalized. This determination is made on a case-by-case basis with the best interest of the Soldier taken into consideration at all times. If your Soldier is admitted to the hospital for a serious illness or undergoes surgery of any kind, the immediate next of kin, designated on your Soldiers personnel card, will be notified by the Medical Staff, not the Chain of Command (Commander, First Sergeant, or Drill Sergeant). If your Soldier is hospitalized, you can reach the RACH information desk 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at (580) 558-2000.

3. MAY MY SOLDIER TRAVEL WITH ME OR GO HOME AFTER GRADUATION?

No, your Soldier may NOT travel with you to his next duty station in order to attend Advanced Individual Training (AIT) for his specific Military Occupational Specialty (MOS). Furthermore, Soldiers are not authorized to travel home in between graduation and their AIT report date (see FAQ 4 below). However, please keep in mind that the Department of Defense (DOD) will provide a plane ticket through a defense contracted travel agency located on Fort Sill. This plane ticket will be provided during graduation week once your Soldier receives his official orders. Soldiers can count on leaving within 48 hours of graduation directly to their next duty station for AIT, even if that means they will be signing in to their gaining unit several days before their report date. Since winter block leave will be soon approaching following graduation, it is still pending as to whether they will go to AIT before home for Christmas. Field Artillery (13 series) MOS Soldiers only will be conducting their AIT here at Ft. Sill. All other MOS will be reporting to their AIT duty station at an alternate Army installation within the Continental U.S.

4. WILL MY SOLDIER BE ALLOWED TO GO ON PASS AFTER GRADUATION?

Yes. Deserving Soldiers (not pending adverse action or serving punishment as a result of adverse action) will be allowed to go on pass after family day and graduation ceremonies. Our graduation information packet will provide further details regarding pass privileges and family day activities. Again, please do not make your graduation travel plans until you know for sure that your Soldier is graduating on time and we publish the graduation and family day schedules. We are not responsible for any charges or fees you incur.

5. MAY I SEND LETTERS?

Yes, you may send letters.

6. WHAT HAPPENS IF MY SOLDIER FAILS A PORTION OF BASIC TRAINING?

If your Soldier is unable to adequately pass a required training event during his 9 weeks here at Fort Sill, he will be given the opportunity to retrain and pass the event(s) prior to graduation. If he is still unable to meet the prescribed standards, he may be recycled to another unit in order to repeat that training. **Please do not contact us regarding questions about whether your Soldier will graduate. He will contact you and keep you informed of his current status.**

7. WHAT DO I DO IF MY SOLDIER CALLS OR WRITES ABOUT WANTING TO LEAVE?

As I mentioned in the letter, all Soldiers have some level of difficulty transitioning to military life because it is foreign from anything they have ever experienced in their lives. Often times, Soldiers find themselves questioning why they are here and whether or not they cannot or want to continue. In some isolated cases, these thoughts can lead to Soldiers acting upon these doubts by departing Ft. Sill on their own without permission from the chain of command. Our unit is not run like a confinement facility in that we do not prevent Soldiers from leaving on their own if they so desire. Soldiers come here to stay and train because they want to, not because we make them.

If your Soldier does leave under these circumstances, he is in violation of Article 86 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ), Absent Without Leave (AWOL). Because our nation is at war, he is in violation of Article 85, Desertion. Both of these violations are felony offenses, that if found guilty in a military courts martial can incur the following maximum punishment: dishonorable discharge from the military, forfeiture of all pay and allowances (to include benefits), and a maximum of 5 years confinement. Once a Soldier goes AWOL, his pay is immediately stopped and his name will be distributed to all law enforcement agencies with a warrant for his immediate arrest.

In the past, family members have often assisted their Soldier in going AWOL because they sincerely believe they are helping their Soldier. In actuality, this misguided support only further enables these individuals to quit by running away from commitments and responsibilities.

If you are reading this message that is a strong indication that you care about your Soldier and his decision to join the Armed Forces. If your Soldier falls into this category by considering going AWOL, we suggest that you reaffirm your support and pride for him. Continue to stay in contact with him using positive words of encouragement indicating that he can and will make it through BCT. If he is strongly considering leaving on his own, please discourage him by reminding him of the serious, life altering consequences in this decision. If all else fails, please contact us immediately so the chain of command and/or our unit ministry team can have the opportunity to intervene by simply talking to your Soldier. I can personally assure you that he will not get in trouble as our primary objective is to assist him and ensure his success in BCT, the Army, and in life. Like you, we want to see your Soldier meet all of the goals he set out to achieve when he made the right decision to become a Soldier.

8. MAY MY SOLDIER ATTEND RELIGIOUS SERVICES?

Yes, your Soldier will have the opportunity to attend religious services on a weekly basis, which mainly occurs on Sunday mornings. Locations and times of religious services vary based on denomination, and our training being conducted at that time. All matters concerning religious activity are supported by our Battalion Chaplain who can be contacted at the following: (580) 442-8701 / 8706.

9. HOW DO I CONTACT MY SOLDIER?

(Soldier's Rank, Last name, first name)
5955 Rothwell Street, Unit B (PLT #)
Fort Sill, OK 73503-8024

*Please annotate your Soldier's **Platoon** by writing 1, 2, 3 or 4. This assists us in sorting mail, therefore getting it to your Soldier quicker.

10. HOW DO I CONTACT YOU?

If you have any questions or need information please feel free to contact us at the following number. We'd like to ask that you attempt to go through your Soldier FIRST before calling us as he can answer most of your questions. Please keep in mind that we are NOT an answering service. Please direct all messages that are not an emergency or of a serious nature directly to your Soldier. Remember that if you need to call us, your Soldier will not get in trouble! If the issue is something he can take care of on his own, he will be counseled on that fact, but if it is timely, relevant, and important, he will receive the pertinent information immediately without repercussion:

Training Technician
Mr. Charles Loeffke
Phone: (580) 442-1212

IMPORTANT INFORMATION LINKS

HOW CAN I SEE WHAT BASIC TRAINING IS REALLY LIKE?

www.goarmy.com

WHAT ABOUT BASIC COMBAT TRAINING AT FORT SILL SPECIFICALLY?

<http://sill-www.army.mil/434/bct%20main.htm>

<http://sill-www.army.mil/434/index.htm>

<http://sill-www.army.mil>

OUR BATTERY FACEBOOK PAGE:

<http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100000507580680#!/pages/Fort-Sill/Bravo-Battery-1st-Bn-40th-Field-Artillery-Bushmasters/10150093035685641?ajaxpipe=1&a=4>

WHERE FAMILY MEMBERS GET MORE INFORMATION ON LIFE IN THE ARMY AND OUR FIRST DUTY STATION?

The Army provides a number of resources available to spouses and military family members in order to provide the best possible information and conflict resolution. Here are two such links to web-sites and one toll free number that will answer many of your questions or point you in the right direction to an agency that can. Both websites require a user name and password that you can obtain by providing your basic information to include name, e-mail address, and easy to remember password:

1. www.myarmylifetoo.com – Great place to start. Requires basic registration
2. www.armyonesource.com – user id: *military*, password: *onesource*
3. Don't have access to the Internet? Contact **Military OneSource** toll free 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for answers to all your questions at the following telephone numbers:
 - a. From the U.S.: 1-800-342-9647
 - b. Outside the U.S.: (country access code) + 800-3429-6477 (dial all 11 #s)

REMEMBER

"The Army is all about taking care of Soldiers and Families. We not only train your Soldier, we are here to assist him and you in any way possible. Please do not hesitate to contact us!"

CPT Jack Irby